



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Victorians Spring to Life in Noe Valley Tour

Cathie and Paul Staley Blend
Architecture and Anecdotes

By Emily Hayes

Even if you have lived in Noe Valley for more than 20 years, you may find you have a lot to learn about your own backyard on a walking tour of the neighborhood

Take it from me. In May, I went with a longtime resident and friend to the “Noe Valley: A Village Within the City” tour, and we both came away with a new appreciation for the Victorian architecture surrounding us for decades, as well as the rich history of the area’s early inhabitants.

Sponsored by San Francisco City Guides, the walking tour takes about two hours and is mostly flat—but be warned, there is one big hill on Castro Street if you decide to sign up!

The tour is given once or twice a month by wife-and-husband Cathie and Paul Staley, who have lived on 23rd Street in Noe Valley since 1988.

The couple have been guiding the tour on Sunday afternoons since January 2024. They were working for City Guides and decided to revive the Noe Valley tour, which had been running from 2008 to 2021, led by various other walk leaders. During the Covid pandemic, Cathie and Paul did a lot of walking in the neighborhood. They noticed interesting architectural details and pitched City Guides to bring the route back, with updated commentary.

These days, the Noe Valley tour



On the A List: The Axford House on Noe Street, built in 1877, is a highlight of a City Guides walking tour led by local history buffs Cathie and Paul Staley. *Photo by Emily Hayes*

attracts a crowd of 25 to 30 people, many of whom are neighborhood residents or devoted City Guides walkers. Locals enjoy taking their relatives when

they are visiting from out of town. “I think we get large groups for the

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Saturday Farmers Market Is Full, Really Full

21 Vendors Now Fill Stalls at
Noe Valley Town Square

By Matthew S. Bajko

As it nears the peak of summer, the Noe Valley Farmers Market is running at full capacity. Several smaller spaces have been carved out of its footprint at the Noe Valley Town Square on Saturday mornings, to make room for its roster of 21 vendors—selling everything from organic cabbage to artisan chocolate.

“We are booked solid,” says longtime market manager Elizabeth Crane. “Honestly, I have no room. I like to joke we should build a second story on top of the awnings out here and put in a spiral staircase in order to have a second level.”

One of those utilizing half a stall is Bob Grand, creator of Grand Scones. The Noe Valley resident started baking as a hobby, making scones with the blackberries he and his daughter picked at a local park.

After he retired, Grand decided to get a cottage food operation license so he could sell his scones directly to consumers. Since the start of 2024, he has been a regular at the Noe Valley Farmers Market, routinely selling out of his \$5 lemon-blueberry and cheddar-jalapeno pastries.

“I had asked the market about maybe selling the scones there, and nothing was open at the time [Fall 2023], but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Fun a Key Part of Noe Valley Run Club

Four-Year-Old Group Creating
Miles of Community

By JL Odom

Every Friday at 7:30 a.m., dozens of people gather on the corner of Sanchez and 26th streets. They come for a few easy miles around the neighborhood—but especially for the camaraderie.

They’re part of the Noe Valley Run Club, which has been going strong for four years.

“People are wanting to get out and meet their neighbors, and the run club is an excellent venue for that,” said Geneva Gondak, one of the club’s captains.

Gondak, an East Bay Municipal Utility District water conservation supervisor turning 30 in June, joined NVRC shortly after its March 2022 launch. Founders Vicki Powell and Christine O’Connell announced the



Smile, You’re Up at 7:30: Before they start their jog on Friday mornings, Noe Valley Run Club members, whether newcomers or frequent milers, introduce themselves and pose for a group photo in front of Noe Cafe on Sanchez Street. *Photo by JL Odom*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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CRIME SNAPSHOT

April Was a Bit Kinder—That’s Good

Noe Valley saw a continued decline in criminal activity this spring, according to the San Francisco Police Department’s digital map of incidents. Police recorded a total of 61 incidents in April—down five from March and seven from February—in the 10 categories the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks monthly.

As usual, the larceny-theft category remained the neighborhood’s biggest problem area. Police logged 28 incidents, including 24 shoplifting incidents in the vicinity of Castro and Jersey streets. (See “‘Serial’ Shoplifter” story, top right.)

Still, front-porch package thefts and car break-ins, a common occurrence during the pandemic, continued their downward trend. The data showed only two car thefts, one residential package theft, and one theft described only as “other” in April.

Burglaries declined significantly month to month. There were nine incidents in April—four at residential and five at non-residential properties—compared to 15 in March.

Motor vehicle thefts, another quality-of-life complaint, remained low as well, with only two offenses noted.

According to the digital map, there were no robberies and just two assaults reported in April. However, domestic

violence incidents—which include restraining-order violations—increased from zero to four, while fraud reports rose from one to five. The latter ranged from ATM thefts to false impersonation schemes.

The *Voice* gathered the April data on May 14, 2026, from the digital “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present,” found at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present>.

“Noe Valley” in the SFPD’s dataset is bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. Be aware that the *Voice* Crime Snapshot may be incomplete, as the data are subject to change as updates become available.

Reporting a Crime

If you witness a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. For recurring or non-emergency problems, call 1-415-533-0123.

For non-violent crimes (e.g., auto burglary, vandalism), file a report online at www.SanFranciscoPolice.org (see “Get Service”). Or call 3-1-1.

Anonymous tips can be texted to 847411 with the key word “SFPD”.

You also may call Mission Station at 415-558-5400 or Ingleside Station at 415-404-4000.

In general, Mission Station (630 Valencia St.) covers the northern and central parts of Noe Valley, while Ingleside Station (1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane) covers Upper Noe and areas near Bernal Heights and Glen Park.

Sean Perdomo is current captain at Mission Station (email Sean.Perdomo@sfgov.org). Gerald Newbeck is at the helm of Ingleside (Gerald.Newbeck@sfgov.org).

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

‘Serial’ Shoplifter Facing Charges for Walgreens Thefts

A prolific retail theft suspect repeatedly targeted a Walgreens store on Castro Street, allegedly stealing thousands of dollars in cosmetics and batteries in a crime spree that continued even after multiple arrests, according to a May 14 news brief from the San Francisco Police Department.

Investigators say 24-year-old Tyrese Boswell was linked to 27 separate theft incidents between late 2025 and April 2026, with the alleged losses totaling nearly \$40,000.

Boswell first came to the attention of the SFPD’s Organized Retail Crime Task Force after a string of thefts at the Walgreens on the 1100 block of Columbus Avenue. Police arrested him on Christmas Eve 2025 in connection with 18 incidents at that North Beach location.

After his release, investigators say Boswell shifted his focus to the Noe Valley Walgreens store at 1333 Castro St., where he allegedly carried out a week-long series of thefts. Police arrested him again on April 4 in connection with seven additional thefts at the Castro Street store.


Authorities said Boswell returned to the Noe Valley store twice more after being released pending a court appearance. Officers arrested him for a third time on April 16.

The case is one of several recent retail theft investigations highlighted by police as part of a broader crackdown on organized shoplifting operations across San Francisco. Authorities said suspects in multiple investigations were collectively tied to more than \$43,000

in stolen merchandise. Boswell now faces numerous felony charges, including nine counts of second-degree burglary, seven counts of grand theft, and seven counts of petty theft with prior convictions. He also faces one misdemeanor count of possessing stolen property. Police officials say recent changes in California law have strengthened the ability of investigators and prosecutors to pursue repeat retail theft offenders. One law that took effect in December allows felony charges for suspects with multiple prior theft convictions, while another permits authorities to combine the value of repeated petty thefts into a single felony case once losses exceed \$950. The San Francisco District Attorney’s Office has assigned the Boswell case and several other repeat-offender investigations to a specialized Organized Retail Crime prosecutor. —CMA, SS, AI



Police have arrested a man in connection with April thefts at the Walgreens at 1333 Castro St. Photo by Corrie M. Anders


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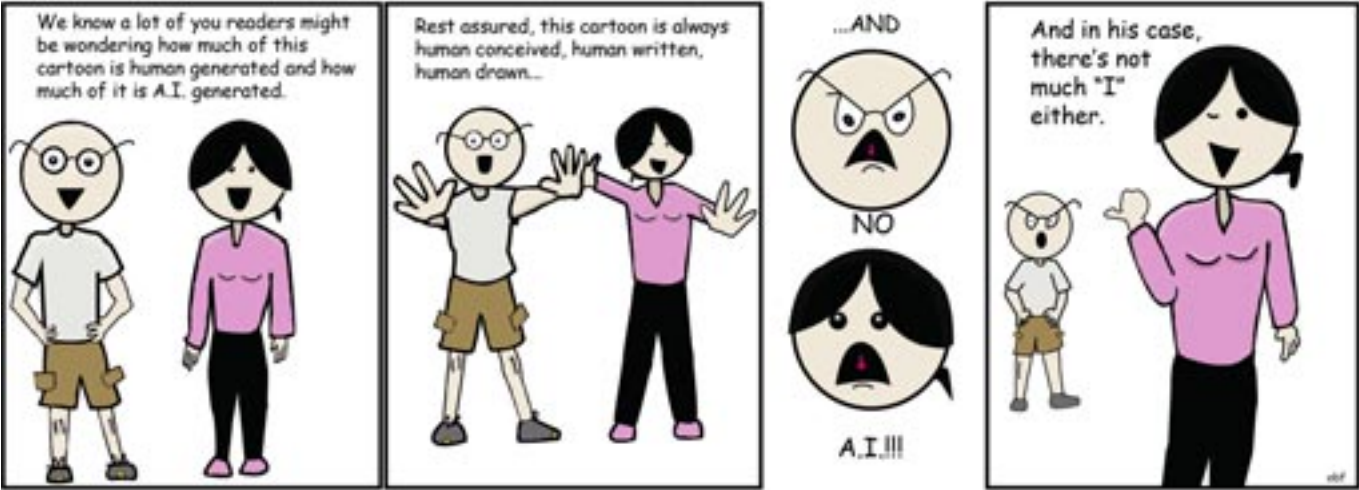
CRIME SNAPSHOT

Noe Valley Incident Reports February 2025 – April 2026

Crime Category	Feb25	Mar25	Apr25	May25	Jun25	Jul25	Aug25	Sep25	Oct25	Nov25	Dec25	Y2025	Jan26	Feb26	Mar26	Apr26
Larceny/Theft	26	45	29	44	27	28	31	36	35	33	43	419	38	37	32	28
Burglary	16	13	11	16	6	14	18	16	11	10	9	157	6	10	15	9
Malicious Mischief	4	5	3	2	5	7	6	9	4	6	8	68	2	2	7	5
Motor Veh. Theft	5	6	3	4	7	6	4	9	5	2	4	61	1	4	3	2
Assault	2	2	0	5	2	2	0	4	6	0	1	26	1	1	6	2
Robbery	0	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
Other Misc	9	8	5	10	2	2	4	4	7	4	4	72	2	4	2	5
Fraud	3	2	3	9	7	4	1	2	11	5	2	49	3	7	1	5
Family D.Violence	0	4	4	3	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	25	8	3	0	4
Vandalism	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Totals	65	88	61	95	60	65	65	82	80	63	74	887	53	68	66	61

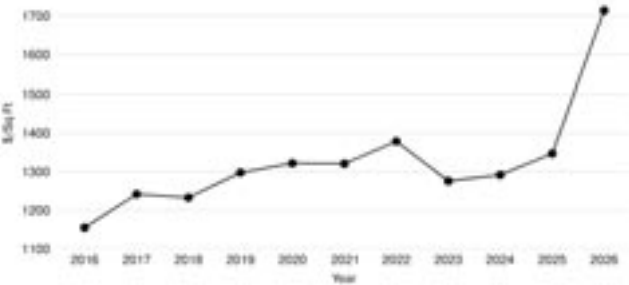
Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783/>. This data includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications or updates are completed. The *Noe Valley Voice* scraped the March 2026 data for “Noe Valley” on May 14, 2026. “Noe Valley” on the SFPD’s digital map is bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. Noe Valley Voice June 2026

THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN





Average Price Per Square Foot
In Noe Valley Past 10 Years



JB

JESSICA BRANSON



Anthropic and Open AI have both announced 2026 IPO plans, but single-family home sales have already surged this year, particularly in the luxury market where inventory remains scarce. Noe Valley is leading the charge, attracting buyers with its sunny weather, idyllic village, parks, farmers market, easy downtown access, and proximity to Silicon Valley and SFO. The numbers are striking. After averaging roughly \$1,100 to \$1,300 per square foot for much of the last decade, many of Noe Valley's most desirable homes are now approaching or exceeding \$1,800 per square foot, about 50% above historical norms. Is this the new normal or another technology-driven market cycle? Either way, strategy matters. If you're curious what today's market means for your home's value, call Jessica Branson for a confidential, no-obligation consultation—and a chance to see what it's like to work with the best!

JB

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21 total.
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NEW THIS SEASON

- Gourmet chocolates
- Two added organic produce vendors
- Fresh blueberries (in season now!)
- Housemade chia pudding

LONGTIME FAVORITES

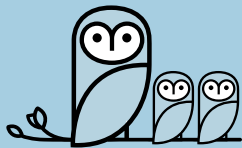
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A New Frontier For Bill Yenne

Noe Valley Historian Rides the Wild West in Fiction

By John Ferrannini

Longtime Noe Valley fixture Bill Yenne remains a prolific writer of both fiction and nonfiction—with his latest work coming out at the end of June.

Dodging a Showdown With His Past is the third installment of Yenne’s “The Ballad of a Westering Man” series, launched in 2025. The books cover the adventures of Gideon Safford (the westering man), who is on the run from the law for a crime he didn’t commit.

Asked if he has more in that series—or in the action thriller series he wrote the same year about retired special forces operator Jim Hammer—Yenne said, “I never say ‘last.’”

“Fiction is another world, one where I enjoy relating to the characters, being in their conversations,” he said. “One of the things about writing dialogue and fiction is you reach a point—a desired point in the writing process—where you don’t write the dialogue, you just sit there and take dictation, because your character, if you’ve created them right, crafted them right, molded their personality—they tell you what they want to say, and you just go with it, and that’s part of being in a trance.”

And Yenne does enough of a good job of it that the *Wall Street Journal* reported he writes “with a cinematic vividness.”

Yenne has also written nonfiction books, including about Noe Valley. He’s penned over three dozen books on historical topics, he said. At Small Frys



Bill Yenne sits at the Valley Tavern beneath some of the historic photographs of Noe Valley he was kind enough to donate to the bar.

Photo by John Ferrannini

on 24th Street—co-owned by wife Carol Yenne, current treasurer and former president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, and daughter Azia Yenne—one can find two books he wrote about the neighborhood.

“Those books were heavily inspired by my living here and walking the streets every day, and interesting history,” he said.

The two books are *San Francisco’s Noe Valley*, part of the “Images of America” series, and *Noe Valley, California, Past and Present*, the latter of which uses photos to illustrate the then and now.

“I always tell people I moved to Noe Valley in October,” he said. “And then I add the year 1975—which isn’t exactly true. We moved here at the beginning of ’75 and bought our house in October, so it’ll be 51 years as of this fall.”

But his fictional works are not as much inspired by central San Francisco as by his childhood living in the dust of the pioneer days in Montana—hearing what he called “echoes of the past.”

Born in 1949, Yenne grew up in West Glacier, Montana. His father worked for the National Park Service.

“My father was a horseman. He spent his entire working life, or almost all of it, on the back of a horse,” Yenne recalled. “I grew up in absolute wilderness, where he [his father] was the

supervisor of back country trails at Glacier National Park, so my summers were spent doing very much the same things people would have done a couple hundred years earlier.

“So, yeah, there were a lot of remnants of the past and the Old West, and so that’s probably—well, it is—the inspiration.”

Yenne remembers having to spend two hours on a bus each day to get to school.

His writing career once took him to the Vatican Library.

“I was working on a project—still a work in progress—and got in touch with them, told them about it, and they invited me invitation-only access to the secret archives, and so I went there, did time exploring some amazing stuff. Just being inside is incredible.”

Yenne joked he must be the only Noe Valley resident to have a library card from the Vatican. “But if that’s not true, and somebody else has done research there, I’d be happy to buy them a drink down at the Valley Tavern, and we can compare notes,” he said, referring to the 24th Street watering hole not far from Small Frys.

He donated for the tavern’s use a number of historic photographs of the neighborhood, for which a plaque thanks him on the tavern’s wall.

Yenne recently appeared on a March 19 episode of Matthew Pizzolato’s *Dusty Trails and Small Tales* podcast.

“From *Sitting Bull* and *Hap Arnold* to his acclaimed Western Bladen Cole series with Dusty Saddle Publishing, Yenne’s writing brings history—and the American West—to life with unmatched depth and authenticity,” the YouTube description of the podcast episode states. “His books have been featured on Amazon’s Best Books of the Year list, translated into multiple languages, and adapted into documentaries across the History Channel, National Geographic, Smithsonian, ARD, NHK, and more.”

Yenne shows no signs of slowing down, as the books in his current Western series “are just starting to emerge.”

Asked how much time he devotes to writing, Yenne answered, “A lot of people ask that, and I compare notes with other writers who get asked that a lot also.

“Some days, [writing] goes on all day,” he said. “Other days, your day is broken up. Five or six days out of the week with me would be acceptable.... You become so focused you lose track of time and day, and that happens to me sometimes. Which is what I enjoy about all this. It inspires the endorphins.” ■

MORE FOOD TO EAT

To my fellow neighbors and food enthusiasts,

The last few years spent scouting out and sharing local culinary treasures for the *Voice* has been an absolute privilege. It’s been a joy to shine a light on the many gems that make Noe Valley’s food scene so vibrant and special. However, as life often does, things are shifting. I’ve recently moved out of the neighborhood and, more importantly, Katie and I are eagerly preparing for the arrival of our first child. As a result, I’ll be taking an indefinite sabbatical from this column. My hope is that our crossroads will meet again in these pages before too long, and I can pick up right where I left off.

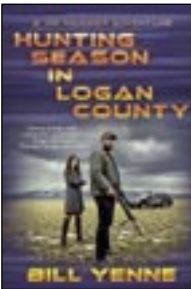
To the chefs and bakers who have sparked such unbridled joy for my palate and my spirit—thank you.

—Matt Fisher, soon to be back on the beat for More Food to Eat



Have we missed your favorite dish in Noe Valley? Send an email to MoreFoodtoEatNoeValley@gmail.com

By
Bill
Yenne



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Noe Valley Color

Photo by Jack Tipple

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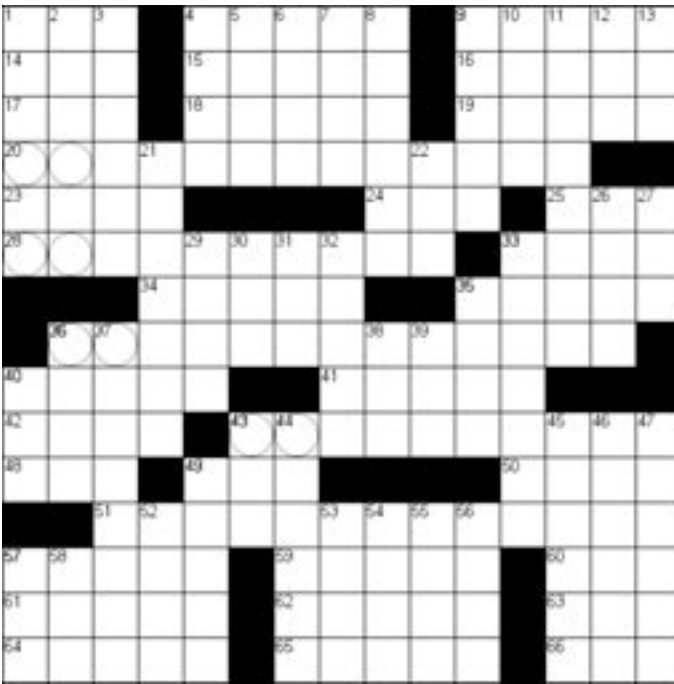
STATS: Based on 2026 SFAR MLS listing agent data, all residential categories. Vivre is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 02014153. All material presented herein is intended for information purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified.

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

New Eatery on Church Street

ACROSS

- 1. Life story
- 4. Rose Parade entry
- 9. Month parts
- 14. 1960 loser to JFK
- 15. “Who ya ___ call? (Ghostbusters!)”
- 16. Dimwit
- 17. Not closed, in poems
- 18. Capital of Vietnam
- 19. Some iPads
- 20. Tubes that create endlessly changing color patterns
- 23. Actor Baldwin
- 24. Interstate, e.g.: Abbr.
- 25. Also
- 28. Ward Bond TV western
- 33. Sean of “Milk”
- 34. Fatigued
- 35. Sends via USPS
- 36. With “every,” including all parts and cranny
- 40. Cabaret show
- 41. Singer Menzel
- 42. “... happily ___ after”
- 43. Chinese-cuisine TV show with chef Martin
- 48. Distant
- 49. Abbr. before Padilla or Schiff
- 50. Cleveland’s lake
- 51. Specialty of the new Noe Valley restaurant whose name is spelled in circles here
- 57. Sharon of “Basic Instinct”
- 59. Maya Angelou’s “And Still ___”
- 60. At any time, poetically
- 61. “The Duke” of Hollywood



- 62. Poker pot
- 63. Moo goo ___ pan
- 64. Melted together
- 65. Massage targets
- 66. Summer mo.
- 13. Numbered ways that run from 1st (SOMA) to 30th (Noe Valley): Abbr.
- 21. Environmentally sensitive vacation
- 22. Possess
- 26. One and ___
- 27. Carry-___ (some luggage)
- 29. Adidas rival
- 30. La la lead-in
- 31. Stimp’s TV pal
- 32. Contribute to the mix
- 33. Cure-all
- 35. “Death in Venice” author
- 36. Cal-___: Reno casino referencing two states
- 37. Delights
- 38. HHS division from which 3,000 workers have been fired since 2025
- 39. Coastal inlet
- 40. Game official
- 43. Thumbs-up vote
- 44. Golf’s Sorenstam
- 45. Big name in Tex-Mex
- 46. Bird: Fr.
- 47. The K in coffee’s K-cup
- 49. Drive too fast
- 52. Oscar winner Hathaway
- 53. Friend of Kyle and Stan
- 54. “Revenge of the ___” (“Star Wars” film)
- 55. 90-degree turn from norte
- 56. Piano parts
- 57. Personal-ad abbr.
- 58. Sigma follower

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Solution on Page 21
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The Staleys Bring History Alive—Block by Block

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tour because the residents of Noe love the feeling of the place and want to know more about its past and the people who contributed to making it what it is today,” Paul says.

“They always say the same thing, which is, ‘There was so much I didn’t know about Noe Valley. I learned so much about right where I’m living,’” Cathie adds.

Most consider the borders of Noe Valley to be 21st to 30th Street and Dolores to Grand View. The 1.25-mile City Guides tour starts at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street. There, the Staleys explain the



Guide Cathie Staley points out a 1903 Victorian with the classic style of master builder John Anderson. Photo by Emily Hayes

role of the building’s progenitor—Gilded Age capitalist Andrew Carnegie—and the debt owed to community activist Sally Brunn, who fought to keep the branch open (see *Noe Valley Voice*, March 1998 issue).

They also review the first big real estate deal here in the 1850s, made between José de Jesús Noé and Mormon developer John Meirs Horner. (When Horner named the streets in Horner’s Corner, he named one for his wife, Elizabeth.)

Paul and Cathie take walkers past notable Victorian and Edwardian homes, pointing out the signatures of people who built and restored local buildings:

- Fernando Nelson built a set of beautiful Victorian homes along the western side of Castro between Clipper and 26th Street in the 1890s. He was one of the first and most prolific builders in San Francisco (see *Voice*, June 2005).

- John Anderson, part of a family of Swedish immigrants, helped shape the look of Noe Valley with houses built around the turn of the 20th century.

- Victorian restoration specialist Skeeter Jones, owner of Clearheart Fine Design & Building, has created elaborate contemporary façades.

Another notable part of the tour is a stop at the William Axford House on Noe Street at 25th, built in 1877 and designated a city landmark in 1981.

Guides With Experience

Cathie is from Newton, Mass., while Paul was born in Palo Alto, Calif. They met in the Boston area, where Paul was studying. They raised three sons in San Francisco and have five grandchildren, three of whom were raised in the city.

The Staleys became City Guides in

2022. The pair also do two other tours, including “The Beat Generation in SF,” which explores City Lights Bookstore, and “Welcome to San Francisco,” which takes newcomers from the Gold Rush to the present day.

For the Noe Valley tour, Paul shares the area’s development, transportation, and retail history, while Cathie focuses more on architecture and art.

“We’re really having a fun time with this. It makes us even prouder of the neighborhood,” Paul says. “This is home—this is where we raised our kids and we get to share that with people. It’s been really gratifying.”

In remaking the tour, the couple were provided with City Guides’ maps, photos, and scripts, the most recent of which had been written in 2010. They kept about half the content and created the rest fresh.

Route Goes Up Castro

As members of City Guides—a 48-year-old nonprofit that functions in partnership with the San Francisco Library—the Staleys took advantage of the Main Library’s history room as a source for new and old material. They also did a lot of scouting in Noe Valley, to figure out the best route and architectural examples.

They interviewed the owner of one home they talk about on the tour, as well as Judith Lynch, an author and expert on Victorian architecture.

“She [Judith] gave me a lot of content on Noe Valley and on Victorians as well,” Cathie says. “So we were fortunate to have some special resources.”

On the tour, they added a trip uphill on Castro Street by the family home of artist Ruth Asawa (1926–2013), known for her wire sculptures and bronze casts. (See *Voice* December 1989, November 2005, and numerous other issues.)

An exhibition of the late artist’s work, *Ruth Asawa: Retrospective*, which ran at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art June to September 2025, is currently on display at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. Meanwhile, Asawa’s estate is exhibiting her work at the Minnesota Street Project in Dogpatch through June 20, 2026.

“She’s become even more famous in



The Noe Valley walk is one of three City Guides tours the Staleys give together. Above, Cathie and Paul Staley discuss the Art Deco features of James Lick Middle School and the history of its namesake. Photo by Emily Hayes

the past three years than she was when we started, because of the show at San Francisco MOMA,” Cathie says.

Infamous Crimes and Tall Tales

On the Noe Valley tour, Paul reviews a highly politicized murder on Alvarado Street in 1969, followed by a controversial trial. “I had no idea that episode had taken place here,” he says.

And of course another new part of the tour compared to older iterations is a visit to the world’s most famous toilet, which opened in 2024 in the Noe Valley Town Square.

“I hype it up a bit just to get a laugh out of folks. It’s a familiar story. I do

close with an aspect that sort of underscores how special and unique our bathroom is,” Paul says. “I am not going to tell you—make sure you come on the tour, so you can hear the punchline.”

The City Guides tour “Noe Valley: A Village Within the City” usually begins at 2 p.m. on the front steps of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. It ends at the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street. Participation is free but donations are encouraged. The next tours are scheduled for June 14, July 12, July 19, and Aug. 23. For more information and to register, go to sfcityguides.org.



The tour “Noe Valley: A Village Within the City” typically attracts 25 to 30 participants of varying ages, including many locals and their visiting relatives. Photo courtesy M.C. Fernandez



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Market manager Elizabeth Crane is happy Noe Valley's vendor roster is full to overflowing.

Farmers Market at Full Capacity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

then several months later, they came and asked if I wanted to try sharing something. And the smaller size works out fine,” said Grand, who for 35 years has lived three blocks from his favorite market.

Among those waiting for a space is Carter Gibson, another Noe Valley resident. Gibson began selling his 5.5-ounce jars of Extra Extra Chili Crunch seasoning online last year. “One day last fall, I decided I was paying too much for chili crunch and thought this is crazy—I feel like I could make chili crunch,” said Gibson, who lives near the corner of 24th and Castro.

Within a few months, he had come up with a recipe, was receiving positive feedback, and decided to launch a business. But when he asked the Noe Valley Farmers Market about selling it there, Gibson was told the earliest he might be able to do so was December.

“It’s small-batch, Noe Valley–made. It is perfect for the Noe Valley Farmers Market,” said Gibson.

Crane told the *Voice* after talking with Gibson this spring that she hoped to bring in local producers of small-batch food items for a short stretch during the 2026 holiday shopping season. Gibson’s condiment would be a perfect stocking stuffer, she said.

The colder, rainy months of the year tend to be slower, Crane noted. Also, she said, some space might open in the fall, since not every farmer grows produce year-round. “A seasonal vendor may drop out,” Crane said.

Regina Starr Faustine, a longtime member of the nonprofit board that runs the market at 3861 24th St., thinks it’s “unbelievably great” to see there are

no vacancies at the square on Saturday mornings.

“We have sold out every possible spot and even spots you could barely think are possible,” noted Faustine, the current board secretary. “Since we stopped having to let people in one by one to the market, we have just grown and developed.”

She was referring to the safety protocols put in at the start of the Covid epidemic in March 2020 to keep shoppers and vendors safe. While the market was deemed an essential business and thus could remain in operation, it had to take precautions, such as limiting the number of people who could enter the square and spacing people six feet apart as they waited in line.

“I made so many masks and gave away so many masks,” recalled Crane. “We still have people line up at the entrance before we open at 8 a.m. That was not something we had before Covid.”

This is the first time since the health crisis that the market has a full vendor roster. Green Thumb Farms of San Benito County and King Ranch from Watsonville recently joined the lineup of organic vegetable sellers. And Mighty Chia chef/owners Laurine Wickett and Jennifer Spiegel and chocolatier David Upchurch are among the new food purveyors.

Upchurch, who’s lived in Noe Valley for 16 years, has had a stall at the Stonestown Galleria Farmers Market since 2020. He joined the Noe Valley market last fall.

“It’s my busy season. So they invited me to join the market. I’m like, yeah, let’s do it,” said Upchurch. “And it’s gone very well since.”

Crane said she wasn’t exactly sure what was behind the demand from vendors to take part in the weekly market. Success begets success, she surmised, and word is out that the nonprofit-run market is good for business.



Maria Gonzalez and Adan de Jesus of Green Thumb show off their bounty. Photo by Sally Smith



Scone chef Bob Grand is one of the lucky locals sharing a stall this summer. Photos by Art Bodner



Josh Hernandez freshens the greens grown at Jorge Silva’s King Ranch Farms.

Photo by Sally Smith

“It becomes a virtuous circle. When more people show up to shop, then word gets out this is a good place for vendors,” said Crane. “When more vendors show up, then more people show up to shop. It feeds itself.”

Upchurch pointed out that there is lower overhead to participate in farmers markets, and the savings makes them more economical for small proprietors like himself, who can’t afford to open a store in San Francisco.

“There’s no way I could have a brick-and-mortar and do this,” Upchurch said, adding that joining a farmers market is “just a smaller way to get started. And now it’s gotten to become my bread and butter.”

He is using the stone fruits and berries he’s found at the farmers market in the confections he will sell this summer and fall.

“I purchase chocolate that is made in the country where the cocoa grows. so that makes it really unique,” noted Upchurch. “So I focus on that relationship between me and the maker, and the maker has a relationship with a farmer.”

Grand also sources from seasonal fruits at the Noe Valley market. Thus, he has been making his scones with strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries. “I tend to use mostly organic products, especially berries. I try to do that as much as possible, do local, do what’s in season,” he said.

Just as she has brought in more vendors to the Noe Valley market, Crane is encouraging an influx of shoppers. One lingering impact from Covid, she said, is that some people remain “a little gunshy” about going out in public and mingling with others.

“I tell people we always need more shoppers,” said Crane.

Crane has been working with the NVFM board on spreading the word about the new vendors and the weekly musical groups the market hosts in the town square. (See *Rumors*, page 23.)

Due to the constant churn of residents moving in and out of Noe Valley, Crane said the board can’t take for

granted that people know about the farmers market, even though it will mark its 23rd anniversary this Dec. 6. Residents of the neighborhood had launched it in response to the closure of Real Food Company in August 2003 and because they wanted to have a place nearby to buy organic produce.

“We have to be cultivating the next generation, essentially, of shoppers,” said Crane, who will mark 22 years of managing the market this fall.

Her pitch is that shoppers get to speak with and know the people growing their fruits and vegetables, or making the food items, when patronizing the farmers market. They also can find community—whether by forming relationships with vendors or running into their neighbors each week, noted Crane.

“It is a happy place, even in the rain,” she said.

And it is a fun outing, said Faustine.

“It is a time and a place for people to just really relax, buy some organic produce and wonderful prepared food, and enjoy live music,” she said.

Unique among local farmers markets, the Noe Valley Farmers Market runs year-round from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. To learn more about it, visit its website at <https://www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com>. For information on Carter Gibson’s Extra Extra Chili Crunch, see <https://www.extraextracrunch.com>.

VENDORS Noe Valley Farmers Market June 2026

Boffo Cart—breakfast sandwiches, burgers
Castellano’s—fruit
David Upchurch Chocolates
El Buen Comer—Mexican food
Far West Fungi—mushrooms
Garden Variety Cheese—eggs, yogurt, cheese, meat
Grand Scones—scones made in Noe Valley
Green Thumb—organic vegetables and berries
Herr Family Farm—vegetables
Hidden Star Orchards—apple products
Juicy Lucy’s—fresh juices
King Ranch Farms—organic vegetables
Mighty Chia—pudding
Queen of Sheeba Honey
Roti Pakistani food
Sour Flour—bread and pastries
Stepladder Ranch & Creamery—cheeses and meat
Tomatero Organic Farm—organic vegetables and berries
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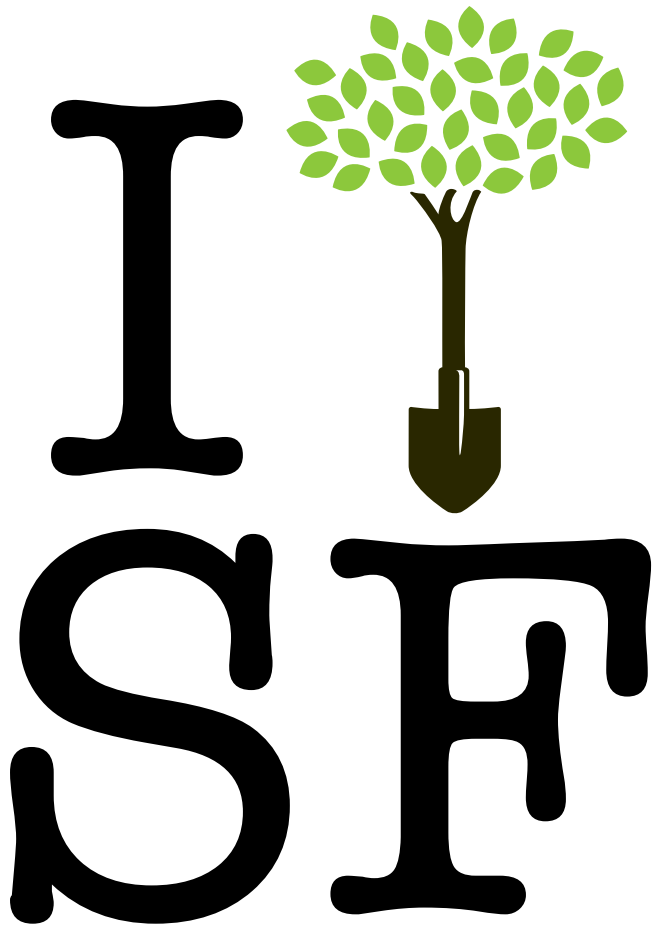
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Fourth Year for Friday Fun Run

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

group on Instagram with the caption, “More FUN than RUN—all paces welcome!”

The club grew out of Powell and O’Connell’s pandemic-era neighborhood runs, after Powell jokingly referred to the outings as a “Noe Valley run club.”

What began as a casual idea among friends has evolved into a weekly fixture, with roughly 35 to 40 people attending most Fridays.

“Even if they’re not the biggest runners, they’re joining for the community element—that’s something I really appreciate about Noe Valley,” Gondak said.

More Runs, More Runners

For fellow NVRC member and captain Andrew Dupree, 38, the club offered a way to rebuild social connections after the pandemic.

“I needed more community in my life—new friends, new acquaintances, new people to spend time with. For me, the run club really played a big part in that. It helped me meet people nearby who were looking for something similar,” he said.

Dupree, a Google product manager, joined in fall 2022 after a neighbor mentioned the club while spotting him on a run.

“I had never been a run club guy before. I was just kind of a headphones-in, solo runner,” he said. “So I was like, ‘I’ll try it out.’ I just wandered up there the next Friday and basically haven’t missed one since. If I’m in town, I’m there.”

The club has expanded beyond its original Friday run. Some members now meet earlier for a four-mile route through Glen Canyon Park before regrouping for the main run. Afterward, many linger at Noe Cafe for coffee, pastries, and conversation.

NVRC also hosts evening runs on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, meeting in front of Mamahuhu and the former Todo El Día (soon-to-be Bonita), respectively. Following their



Noe Valley Run Club captain Geneva Gondak (back row, center) joined the club shortly after it formed in March 2022. Though she now lives in the Inner Richmond, she still attends the Friday morning runs when able. Photo by JL Odom

three-mile outings, some stick around for food and drinks at one of the 24th Street eateries.

“We’re really about making friends, meeting the neighbors. It’s our angle, our focus. And I think that works for a lot of people,” Dupree said.

All Levels Welcome
Member and co-captain Brad Taylor has helped design NVRC hats and sweatshirts, which have become staples at runs and social events like potlucks and happy hours.

Taylor, a health tech CTO in his 40s, joined NVRC in 2022 after a good friend recommended it. Not a runner at the time, he figured what better way to start than with those in his neighbor-

hood. He’s now a consistent presence on Fridays.

“It’s a really great group of folks in all levels of running, from marathoners and ultramarathoners to folks who just want to show up and have a nice little run,” he said.

“We’re very supportive of folks who are just beginning their running journey and just want to get a coffee and chat with their friends and neighbors,” he added.

Group Photo at the Start

Newcomers to Friday mornings can expect a laid-back scene and welcoming atmosphere. People mingle in small groups before the captains gather

everyone into a circle on Sanchez Street to review announcements and the route. After members introduce themselves one by one and pose for a group photo, they head out together for their approximately three-mile run.

From Sanchez, they veer onto residential streets like Elizabeth and Church, cutting through Juri Commons park before continuing along Guerrero and Dolores. With plenty of chatter and smiles along the way, they eventually loop back onto Sanchez.

The runs often include children in strollers, dogs on leashes, and even a parrot named Banana perched calmly on a member’s finger. People wave from sidewalks and windows as the NVRC runners pass by.

Lasting Connections

Gondak has since moved to the Inner Richmond but still joins on Fridays when work allows. At a recent run, she spoke with a longtime Sanchez Street resident who told her the club had helped him finally get to know his neighbors.

“I think that’s really what the run club has brought and continues to bring to the neighborhood—just a lot of those connections,” Gondak said.

You can find Noe Valley Run Club on Instagram, Strava, and, of course, running around the neighborhood.



NVRC members Andrew Dupree (left) and Sophia Sanchez, a couple, initially met through the club. Dupree is also one of NVRC’s captains. Photo by JL Odom



Noe Valley Run Club members are all smiles and good vibes as they pause for traffic on the corner of 27th and Guerrero streets. The group’s approximate 2.5-mile route takes them around Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods. Photo by JL Odom

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Noe Valley Ministry Opposes Landmark Status but Holy Innocents Still on List

With the Noe Valley Ministry declining to accept city land-marking of its 1888 Carpenter Gothic building at 1021 Sanchez St., the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission recommended at its May 20 meeting that the Board of Supervisors not seek to make the building a local landmark.

District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman earlier this year had included the property, designed by architect Charles Geddes, on a list of nearly two dozen potential landmarks in the neighborhoods he represents. His doing so came out of concern the buildings could be demolished under new zoning rules city leaders had passed to ease construction of in-fill housing developments.

In February, the commission had voted against Mandelman's landmark request for St. Paul's Catholic Church, at 1660 Church St. The Archdiocese of San Francisco had objected to the city's landmark designation, preferring to maintain its independence in the management of its iconic building, known both for its twin spires and its role in the 1992 film *Sister Act*.

Not long after, the Presbytery of San Francisco notified the city that it also preferred to keep the Noe Valley Ministry, which it calls the Noe Valley Church, free of restrictions that might accompany landmark status.

Though Mandelman has shelved his requests for the Ministry and St. Paul's, he is continuing to pursue landmark designation for Holy Innocents Episcopal Church at 455 Fair Oaks St., as its owners have not voiced objections to doing so. The church's brown-shingled building, built in 1890, was designed by English immigrant Ernest Coxhead. At its meeting last month, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to support landmarking the small church.

It also backed Mandelman's landmark requests for several residences in the neighborhood, including the Charles Katz Home, a Queen Anne Victorian at 1200 Dolores St., built in 1909; the Shaughnessy House at 394 Fair Oaks St., a Queen Anne dating from the 1890s; and the P.F. Ferguson House at 2 Vicksburg St. (1874), an example of Stick-Eastlake architecture. Also on Mandelman's list is the former Firehouse No. 44 at 3816 22nd St., built in 1909.

The Board of Supervisors will now vote on approving those landmarks

SHORT TAKES



In May, the city's Historic Preservation Commission voted to support landmark status for Holy Innocents Church at 455 Fair Oaks St. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

sometime this summer. It will then be up to Mayor Daniel Lurie to finalize the designations.

On April 30, Lurie signed into law landmark status for the residential properties at 102 Guerrero St. and 361 San Jose Ave. He also landmarked the San Francisco Fire Department's former Engine Company No. 13 at 1458 Valencia St.

—Matthew S. Bajko

Muni's 'Good, Bad, and Ugly': Neighbors Hear It All

Group president Chris Faust chaired a lively meeting of Upper Noe Neighbors on Monday, May 18, at Upper Noe Recreation Center.

First up, Nathan Stalnaker, a spokesperson for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), gave us the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The good news, Stalnaker said, is that satisfaction is the highest it has been in 25 years and ridership is up. The bad news is that fares account for only 8 percent of Muni's operating revenue.

The ugly is that Muni is facing a huge budget shortfall, and to help solve the problem, transit supporters have petitioned to put two tax initiatives on the November ballot: the "Connect Bay Area" measure, which would impose a regional sales tax of .5% (1% in S.F.) to generate an annual \$155 million; and a

local parcel tax, which would cost homeowners \$129 a year and raise an additional \$150 million. In addition, the SFMTA plans to save about \$200 million by cutting vacant positions and eliminating certain investments.

Without the budget infusion, Stalnaker warns, Muni might have to cut up to 20 routes, reduce service after 9 p.m. (60%), double bus wait times, and even cut cablecar service. The cuts could happen as soon as Fall 2027 (see sfmta.com).

Renil Bejoy, aide to District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, then gave the nitty gritty about charter reform and why we should support amendments proposed by the supervisor and Mayor Daniel Lurie, which would streamline city contracting. Still, a few commissions might be disbanded.

Bejoy noted Lurie was contending with a \$600 million budget deficit, which will inevitably affect public safety and the health of nonprofits depending on city funds.

When the gasps and sighs stopped reverberating, talk turned to Church Street and what to do with about \$8,000 remaining from Avenue Greenlight's grant to UNN in 2023 for banners and stringed lights. Proposals have included flower baskets, historic plaques, filling up the empty tree wells in the area, and a new mural project.

Speaking of prettifying the neighborhood, President Faust encouraged members to sign up for One City Day, a citywide day of service on Saturday, July 11. In Noe Valley, volunteers will fill in those pesky tree wells, starting at Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day St. Sign up online at One City Day on the [SF.gov](https://sf.gov) website.

Faust also noted that the Upper Noe NeighborFest (formerly called the Upper Noe Block Party) will be held this year on Saturday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Besides offering food, games, and business booths, the party will showcase local dance, art, and musical talent. Want to strut your stuff? Contact Chris at hello@uppernoeneighbors.com.

In other news, the city and some Neighbors are considering adding parking meters on Church north of 29th Street. Also, sidewalk repairs are happening, so let UNN know where the cracks are. Construction is imminent on 30th Street near On Lok Senior Center.

Finally, UNN is going back to holding meetings every other month on

Reel Opportunity for Girls Now Set for August

Because of a scheduling conflict, the Noe Valley Girls Film Festival has moved the date of its 2026 screening and awards ceremony from September to August.

The event is now scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. It had been set for Sept. 12.

However, that date was in the middle of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish holiday that runs this year from Sept. 11 through Sept. 13.

Larry Kane, a parent whose daughters helped co-found the festival 11 years ago, said the organizers wanted to make sure there was "no conflict with Rosh Hashanah."

Other dates associated with the festival also were revised.

The submission deadline is now Saturday, Aug. 1.

The NVGFF is accepting film submissions via the Noe Valley Girls Film Festival page at the international film platform <https://filmfreeway.com/NoeValleyGirlsFilmFestival>. You can also apply via nvghff.com.

Finalists are expected to be announced by Aug. 15. The top films will be shown and winners revealed at the festival event.

The rules invite girls to submit films in two age groups: 10 and under and 11 to 16. Entries can be on any subject but should be G-rated and no longer than 5 minutes.

Festival organizers are also seeking volunteers—who are under 18 years old, live in San Francisco, and love movies—to join this year's team. Volunteers hold bake sales, review movies, solicit new submissions, find sponsors, and help stage the NVGFF event.

Prizes traditionally include a first-place cash award of \$250, second place \$150, and third place \$50—in each age group.

—Corrie M. Anders

third Wednesdays. So pencil in Wednesday, July 15, at 7 p.m.—and plan to share your views on Muni, meters, and murals.

It wouldn't be a UNN meeting without door prizes. At the May one, popular Sanchez Street eatery Taffi's Café donated two gift certificates. Yummy!

—Kit Cameron

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Million-Dollar Overbids

By Corrie M. Anders

For the second consecutive month, home shoppers engaged in heated price wars, sometimes paying a million dollars more to acquire a piece of Noe Valley real estate.

In April, they purchased a dozen single-family detached homes, just one fewer than in March, according to data provided to the *Voice* by Corcoran Icon Real Estate.

(Condominium sales took something of a breather, as shoppers purchased seven attached units in April, half that of March.)

Facing a market with too little inventory to satisfy demand, house hunters dug deep into their pockets. They typi-



This three-level, four-bedroom luxury home on Jersey Street sold the first day it hit the market—for \$7.6 million.

cally paid 31 percent more than the seller’s asking price, topping the previous month’s already eye-opening 25 percent overbids and far exceeding the 9 percent premium of April of last year.

The shortage of houses prompted four buyers to pay more than \$1 million above the sellers’ asking price. Those sales pushed the average cost for a house in Noe Valley to \$3.9 million.

Christine Lopatowski, manager of Corcoran Icon’s 24th Street office, noted that recent buyers likely had lucrative jobs in the tech industry, particularly in the booming artificial intelligence sector.

“We’ve got a lot of money out there, a lot of cash, and people want to get into a single-family home, and there is only so much inventory,” she said.

The highest overbid relative to listed price, she pointed out, was for a three-bedroom house in the 1300 block of pedestrian-friendly Sanchez Street. It was listed at \$2,695,000 but sold for \$4.5 million—67 percent above asking.

The month’s most expensive sale, with an offer the first day it hit the market, was a remodeled contemporary home in the 400 block of Jersey Street. The buyer picked up the keys for \$7.6 million, 8.6 percent over the original

Noe Valley Home Sales*						
Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
April 2026	12	\$2,200,000	\$7,600,000	\$3,947,000	9	131%
March 2026	13	\$1,400,000	\$8,595,000	\$4,085,290	8	125%
April 2025	16	\$1,358,400	\$6,628,000	\$3,296,212	34	109%
Condominium/TICs						
April 2026	7	\$599,000	\$2,350,000	\$1,502,000	20	112%
March 2026	14	\$769,000	\$3,825,000	\$1,989,429	18	120%
April 2025	6	\$1,225,000	\$2,300,000	\$1,619,617	23	108%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
April 2026	4	\$1,800,000	\$5,100,000	\$2,962,500	22	109%
March 2026	5	\$1,725,000	\$5,710,000	\$3,727,000	16	101%
April 2025	1	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	15	110%
5+unit buildings						
April 2026	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2026	3	\$1,963,000	\$4,995,000	\$3,686,000	120	101%
April 2025	1	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	4	102%
*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Noe Valley Voice thanks Corcoran Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. NVV6/2026						



In April, a buyer paid \$2,350,000 for a three-bedroom condominium in this four-unit building on Grand View Avenue.

Photos by Corrie M. Anders

price (\$6,995,000).

Among the selling points of the three-level, 3,600-square-foot home—with four bedrooms and 3½ baths—was the open flow between its living spaces and a south-facing yard with an outdoor kitchen and spa with hot tub. The house also had hardwood floors, skylights, retractable sliding glass doors, a walk-in pantry, a media room, and two-car parking.

April’s condo buyers took an average 20 days to make an offer and paid about 12 percent above asking. The previous month, buyers moved in after 18 days on average and paid 20 percent over list price.

“The condo market wasn’t as aggres-


sive” in April, Lopatowski said. “You didn’t have all that crazy overbidding.”

The costliest condominium was a modern residence in the 600 block of Grand View Avenue, with three bedrooms and four baths in 2,270 square feet of living space.

One of four units in a renovated 1965 building, the home featured an open-concept living-dining layout, a skylit staircase, Viking kitchen appliances, two primary suites, a den, multiple decks, two-car parking, and sweeping views of the city and bay.

After spending just seven days on the market, it sold for \$2,350,000—17.8 percent above its asking price (\$1,995,000). ■

Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range May 2026	Average May 2026	Average April 2026	Average May 2025
Studio	3	\$2,995 to \$4,095	\$3,395 / mo.	\$3,000 / mo.	\$2,495 / mo.
1-bdrm	7	\$3,795 to \$5,950	\$4,583 / mo.	\$4,008 / mo.	\$3,298 / mo.
2-bdrm	7	\$4,250 to \$7,500	\$5,799 / mo.	\$4,801 / mo.	\$4,534 / mo.
3-bdrm	4	\$6,695 to \$13,975	\$10,355 / mo.	\$6,988 / mo.	\$5,475 / mo.
4+-bdrm	1	N/A	\$22,995 / mo.	\$24,000 / mo.	\$11,500 / mo.
** This survey is based on a sample of 22 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from May 4 to 18, 2026. In May 2025, there were 39 listings. NVV6/2026					



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June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29; July 6, 13, 20 & 27: Toddler STORYTIMES are Mondays, 11:15-11:45 am. Tickets 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 1-15: Gallery Sanchez shows PAINTINGS by Robert Windle in “The Colors of Jazz.” Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org

June 1-20: Ruth Asawa: *Untitled*, an exhibit featuring sculptures, paintings, and drawings by artist RUTH ASAWA, is still on view at 1275 Minnesota. Ruthasawa.com

June 1-29: Mamahuhu hosts MAHJONG Mondays from 6 to 9 pm. 3991 24th. 374-7012; eatmamahuhu.com

June 1-30: The SF ZOO offers free week-day admission for kids 11 and under during June. 10 am-5 pm. Sloat and the Great Highway. sfzoo.org

June 2-30: Tuesday TRIVIA Night at The Dubliner begins at 8 pm. Wed., it's bingo. 3838 24th. 826-2279; dublinersf.com

June 2-30: The BAR on Dolores hosts free BINGO on Tuesdays and free comedy on Thursdays, 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

June 4, 11, 18 & 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Family STORYTIMES are Thursdays, 10:15 am and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707

June 5-26: The Noe Valley RUN CLUB meets Fridays at Noe Cafe, 1299 Sanchez. 6:45 am for 4 miles, and 7:30 am for 2.5 miles. noevalleyrunclub.square.site

June 5-31: Lola Gallery exhibits a group show, “The Hope Brigade.” Tues.-Thurs., noon-6 pm; Fri.-Sun. 9 am-6 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875; lolasamfrancisco.com

June 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Saturday FARMERS MARKET has fresh produce and music 8 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 6-27: The Noe WALKS group strides on Saturdays, 10 am, on 24th at Sanchez.

June 7: “SWING on the Square” starts with a dance lesson at 4 pm, then jives with a DJ from 4:45 to 6 pm, in the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th.

June 7, 14, 21 & 28: Bring water and a mat to free YOGA FLOW. 11 am-noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

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CALENDAR

June 10-July 15: SFFD offers NERT Training on Wednesdays, 6 to 10 pm. Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, 880 Lombard. Register at 970-2024; sf-fire.org

June 11: Valencia Live! NIGHT MARKET offers vendors, live music, food, and salsa lessons. 5-10 pm. Valencia between 16th and 19th. visitvalenciastreet.com/live

June 11: Noe Valley Books' BOOK CLUB reads *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel. 7 pm. 3957 24th. 590-2961; noevalleybooks.com

June 12: *My Own Private Idaho* (1991) FILM screens from 2 to 4 pm at the Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 12: The QUEER CHORUS of SF performs a concert, “Queertopia.” 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; noevalleyministry.org

June 13: SF Civic Music Association presents an afternoon of CHAMBER MUSIC. 3-5 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

June 14 & July 12 & 19 & Aug. 13: City Guides offers a WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley, led by Paul and Cathie Staley, starting at 451 Jersey, 2 pm. Register with City Guides, 375-0468; sfcityguides.org

June 15: Claudette Zepeda discusses *Cooking the Border Lands* with Mei Lin. 6:30 pm. OMNIVORE Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

June 16, 23, 30; July 7, 16, 28: Ages 6 to 17 can get MATH Tutoring Tuesdays by volunteers from Engage Tutoring. 4-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 16: ACTION-SF strategizes on third Tuesdays, 6 to 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey; action-sf.com

June 17-27: The Castro Theatre screens FRAMELINE 50, the SF International LGBTQ+ film festival. 429 Castro. 621-6120; thecastro.com

June 20: KIDS STORYTIME (for ages 3 to 8) at Noe Valley Books runs from 9:15 to 9:45 am. 3957 24th. 590-2961

June 20: Dance WORKOUT Rhythm & Motion is 4-5 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 21: Sunday Music in the Square features the Furey Brothers JAZZ combo. 1-3 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 21 & July 19: Volunteers for Noe Valley CLEANUP DAY meet at the Town Square to pick up supplies. 10 am-noon. 3861 24th. SF Public Works; mobilize.us

June 22: Meet the AUTHORS of the *Fog Eater Cafe Cookbook*, 6:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712

June 24: PRIDE NIGHT at Noe Valley Books includes a scavenger hunt, games, and music. 7-8:30 pm. 3957 24th. 590-2961; noevalleybooks.com

June 25-Aug. 22: CREATIVITY EXPLORED exhibits a group show. Reception June 25, 6-8 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org

June 26 & 27: The TRANS March (June 26) heads from Dolores Park to Civic Center at 5 pm. The DYKE March (June 27) starts with a 3 pm rally at 18th and Dolores and moves to Civic Center at 5 pm. sfpride.org

June 27: Bring a yoga mat, blanket, and pillow to a SOUND BATH Healing at Bethany Church, 10 am. BethanySF.org.

June 27-28: The 56th annual PRIDE CELEBRATION, “Built this City,” includes the two-day Civic Center festival and the Sunday Pride Parade (from the foot of Market, 10:30 am). sfpride.org

June 28: Sunday Music in the Square features SWING SHIFT, playing tunes from the Great American Song Book. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

June 28: The Corner Sessions monthly JAZZ concert at Dolores Deluxe runs from 1-3 pm. 2500 22nd. doloresdeluxe.com

June 28: The Super SOCCER Stars Demo at the Noe Valley Library welcomes kids ages 1 to 5 in stages starting at 2 pm (with

parent/caregiver). Sign up at Super Soccer Stars. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

June 28: Ignite SF's PUPPET SLAM showcases local artists. 5-6:30 pm. Eclectic Box SF, 446 Valencia. koshercomedy.com

June 28 & July 12: The STERN GROVE Festival features music by Japanese Breakfast (June 28) and the SF Symphony with Béla Fleck (July 12). 2 pm. 19th Ave. at Sloat. 252-6252; sterngrove.org

June 30: The Noe Valley NIGHT MARKET offers local vendors, food, and music, 5 to 8 pm. 3861 24th. noemerchants.com

June 30: PAJAMA STORYTIME includes stories and songs. 6:30-7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 3: Do a LABYRINTH walk at Bethany United Methodist Church, 5:30 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org

July 4: The Golden Gate Park Band performs an INDEPENDENCE DAY concert, featuring works by Joplin, Souza, and Cohan. 1-2:30 pm. goldengateparkband.org

July 7: Charlie Palmer and Matt Villano discuss *Wineland: Celebrating the Heart of Sonoma*. 6:30 pm. OMNIVORE Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712

July 11: The Upper Noe Neighbors GARDENING Group will clean and mulch tree wells at 30th and Day. 10 am-noon. uppernoerecreationcenter.com/gardens/

July 11: STEM Free Play happens with LEGOs at the Noe Valley Library, 10 to 11:45 am. 51 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 14: It's LEGO and Board Game Night at the Noe Valley Library. 6-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

July 15: Upper NOE Neighbors meets at the Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day, at 7 pm. 970-8061; uppernoeneighbors.com

July 28: Kung Pao KOSHER COMEDY's Resilient Comedy show starts 7 pm. Valencia. koshercomedy.com.

It's July!

The next Voice Calendar will be for July and perhaps August 2026. The deadline for calendar items is June 20. Email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.

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UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



Kids enjoy making birdhouse kits at Upper Noe Rec Center during the 20th Noe Valley Garden Tour on May 16.
Photo by Chris Faust

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What's in Your Quake Kit?

Sally Smith / Illustrations by Karol Barske

Are you ready for the next earthquake, fire, or health emergency? Consider the things you might need in order to live for a week without water or electricity. Below is a list of items for your home preparedness kit or “Go Bag,” suggested by the San Francisco Fire Department’s Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT).

NERT holds community-based training programs in basic preparedness and disaster response skills. To find out more, go to the SF-fire.org/NERT website or call 415-970-2024 (the NERT class hotline). Congrats to all of the 2025 and '26 graduates of the NERT training. Thanks for joining the team!



Water: One gallon per person to last 3 to 5 days. (Use bleach to purify it, 2 to 4 drops per quart.)

Food for 3 to 5 days, such as canned or dried soups, beans, juice.

Cooking Supplies: A grill or camp stove, utensils, matches, can opener, foil, plastic wrap, garbage bags.



Clothing: Light and heavy layers for all, stored to stay dry. Include a pair of shoes and gloves.

Safety: Flashlight, radio, batteries, rope, knife, scissors, fire extinguisher, wrench to shut off utilities.



Supplies such as cash, house or car keys, pencil and paper, i.d. cards, insurance info, maps.

Hygiene: Waterless soap, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrush, sanitary supplies.



Special items for children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

Shelter: Tent, sleeping bags.

Medical: First-aid kit, medications, KN95 masks, extra pair of glasses.



Pet Supplies, such as food, water, leash, medications, and carrier.

Checklist for the ‘Go Bag’

It never hurts to have a “go bag” at home or work or in your car.

- ☐ Sturdy shoes
- ☐ Flashlight, whistle
- ☐ Glasses
- ☐ Crank or battery radio
- ☐ Food and water
- ☐ Cash (\$100 in small bills)
- ☐ Basic first-aid, medications
- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Toilet paper, hand sanitizer
- ☐ Big trash bag, mylar blanket
- ☐ Copy of driver’s license
- ☐ Paper, pencil, family or pet photos, important documents

Birds, Flowers, Kids—All Are Singing at the Park

The recent Noe Valley Garden Tour segment at Upper Noe Rec Center yielded dozens of colorful birdhouses built and decorated by the park’s young visitors. The center enjoyed showing off its Native Plant Garden and resilient flowering plants along Sanchez Street. The Upper Noe Gardening Group’s next workday is July 11 from 10 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome. See <https://uppernoerecreationcenter.com/gardens/> to learn more.

Upper Noe recently hosted the Girls Play Sports Volleyball Championship. Upper Noe’s 12 and Under team, the Jets, won their division. Go Jets!

Meanwhile, Summer Session, running June 2 through Aug. 29, starts with a few changes to accommodate kids at day camp. Open Gym and Pickleball will shift into the late afternoons and evenings. Auditorium classes are not affected.

Summer Day Camp will dominate through mid-August with nine one-week camp sessions Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. During those hours, the lobby and gym will be closed to visitors. To find out more about registering for classes, see <https://uppernoerecreationcenter.com/>.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center, the park’s stewardship group, invites your participation. But if you see something out of order, contact San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1). Note: Equipment for pickleball and ping-pong is available from the office at 295 Day St. (415-970-8061).

—Chris Faust, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Rec Center Summer Session (June 2 to Aug. 29, 2026)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Tues.–Fri., 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun. & Mon. closed (outside activities only); Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Monday

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Summer Camp

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Summer Camp
9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play FREE
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)
4 to 6 p.m. Drop-In Pickleball (all ages) FREE
4 to 9 p.m. Ping Pong Drop-in (ages 6+) FREE
6 to 8:45 p.m. Open Basketball (18+) FREE
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Vinyasa (18+)

Wednesday

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Summer Camp
10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play FREE
12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+)
4 to 5 p.m. Karate Kidz – Little Kickers (ages 6-8)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Basketball (ages 6-17) FREE
4 to 9 p.m. Ping Pong Drop-in (ages 6+) FREE
5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kidz (ages 9-12)
6 to 8:45 p.m. Adult Advanced League Volleyball (18+)

Thursday

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Summer Camp
10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play FREE
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)
4 to 5 p.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3-5)
4 to 6 p.m. Drop-In Pickleball (18+) FREE
4 to 9 p.m. Ping Pong Drop-in (ages 6+) FREE
6 to 8:45 p.m. Open Basketball (18+) FREE
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Vinyasa (18+)

Friday

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Summer Camp
9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play FREE
4 to 6 p.m. Open Basketball (ages 6-17) FREE
4 to 9 p.m. Ping Pong Drop-in (ages 6+) FREE
6:15 to 8:45 Tween/women Volleyball FREE

Saturday

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Open Basketball (all ages) FREE
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba – Play Pass \$5
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Place to Play FREE
3 to 4 p.m. Coed Wrestling – Camp Grapple (ages 7-13)



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CHILDREN'S FICTION

Nat the Cat Finds a Map is the fifth book in the “Ready-to-Read” series by Jarrett Lerner. Ages 3-5.

Dr. Becky Kennedy’s picture book **Leave Me Alone! A Good Inside Story About Deeply Feeling Kids**, illustrated by Joanie Stone, addresses children with strong emotions. Ages 3-6.

Sheep overcomes his fears in **Baa Baa Shop: Sheep’s First Haircut**, by Wendell Brooks with illustrations by Pei Pei Siew. Ages 3 and up.

In **Clovis Meets His Match** by Katelyn Aronson, illustrated by Benji Williams, a bull is upset when a new china shop opens in town. Ages 4-8.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Children can spot the action in the complicated, colorful scenes in Taro Gomi’s **Big Book of Verbs**. Ages 3-5.

Eyes, Knees, Boundaries, Please! My First Book About Private Parts and Consent, is the work of Krupa Bhojani Playforth and Julia Bereciartu. Ages 4-8.

Mary Pope Osborne and Will Osborne’s graphic novel **Space** is second in the “Magic Tree House Fact Tracker” series; it’s also *illustrated by Jomike Tejido and adapted by Mei Nakamura*. Ages 6-9.

Detective Dogs: How Working Dogs Sniff Out Invasive Species, by Alison Pearce Stevens, includes photos of the dogs at work. Ages 8-12.

CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

National Geographic’s **Little Kids First Big Book of Space** by Catherine D. Hughes, illustrated by David A. Aguilar, includes basic concepts and wondrous sights. Ages 3-6.

A fountain offers absurd gifts to a town, like bananas, in **The Fountain** by Lisa Loffredo. Ages 3-8.

In **Rayana Johnson’s Giant Leap** by Jill Tew, a 13-year-old space explorer wants to go to Galaxy Camp. Ages 8-12.

Lidia joins the resistance after the Nazis bomb Warsaw, in **Uprising** by Jennifer A. Nielsen. Ages 8-12.

TEEN FICTION

A goth teen fashion designer meets a tattoo artist apprentice in Tokyo, in **Love Makes Mochi** by Stefany Valentine. Ages 12-17.

Callum the green witch can pay off his debt to the Devil if he performs one last contract, in **Soul of a Gentleman Witch** by David Ferraro. Ages 12 and up.

In **Heart’s Gambit** by J.D. Myall, competitors from two time-traveling Black families must fight a deadly duel. Ages 13-18.

In **According to Plan** by Christen Randall, two queer teens find acceptance while they work on the school’s literary magazine. Ages 14 and up.

TEEN NONFICTION

Joy Hakim’s third book in the “Discovering Life’s Story” series is **The Birth of Genetics**. Ages 9-12.

The 1941 rivalry between the Yankees and the Dodgers is the focus in **Baseball’s Shining Season: America’s Pastime on the Brink of War**, by Martin W. Sandler and Craig Sandler. Ages 10-14.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

New Eatery on Church by Michael Blake

BIO	FLLOAT	WEEKS
RMN	GONNA	IDIDOT
OPE	HANOI	MINIS
KALE	IDOSCOPES	
ALEC	HWY	TOO
WAGON	TRAIN	PENN
	TIRED	MAILS
	NOOK	ANDCRANNY
REVUE	IDINA	
EVER	YANCAN	COOK
FAR	SEN	ERIE
	JAPANESE	KATSU
STONE	IRISE	EER
WAYNE	KITTY	GAI
FUSED	ACHES	AUG

MORE BOOKS TO READ

Stride With Pride

From June through August, readers of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in the San Francisco Public Library’s reading, learning, and exploration program, **Summer Stride**. Besides reading lists, author talks, and book giveaways, there are lectures and activities, and—not to be missed—the reading challenge. If you complete 20 hours of reading or adventuring, you will win the coveted Summer Stride tote, featuring art by children’s author and illustrator Nidhi Chanani. Additionally, Summer Stride is celebrating **Pride Month** with a full slate of LGBTQIA+ activities and reading suggestions. For the complete scoop, go to sfpl.org/summer-stride-2026.

To start reading right now, check out the books on this page, which come to us courtesy of Noe Valley/Sally Brunn librarians Madeleine Felder, Cristal Fiel, and Amy Lewis. If you run out of readables, stride over to the branch at 451 Jersey St. Note: All city libraries will be closed on Friday, June 19, for Juneteenth, and on Saturday, July 7, for Independence Day. The Main Library, only, will be closed Sunday, June 28, for the San Francisco Pride Celebration.



In **Exploring Fashion Design Careers**, Kelley Barth describes the skills required for various jobs in the fashion industry. Ages 11-18.

A woman scientist gets the attention she deserves in **The Real Rosalind: The Truth About Rosalind Franklin’s DNA Discovery and How It Was Erased** by Debbie Loren Dunn and Janet Fox. Ages 11-18.

TEEN EBOOKS

Four teens on spring break try to steer a sailboat caught in a storm in **What We Did to Survive** by Megan Lally. Ages 14-18.

In the romantasy **Burn the Kingdom Down** by Addie Thorley, a princess seeks revenge for her sister’s death. Ages 14-18.

Two boys find love in a time-hopping epic spanning 130 years, in Abdi Nazemian’s **Exquisite Things**. Ages 14-18.

ADULT FICTION

Told by a schizophrenic narrator, **The Monroe Girls** by Antoine Volodine is set in a bleak future where the dead never really die.

Two childhood friends reunite as expectant mothers in **Mothers and Other Strangers** by Corey Ann Haydu.

In **Paradiso 17** by Hannah Lillith Assadi, a Palestinian man restlessly travels the world, searching for a home.

T. Kira Madden’s **Whidbey** follows three women, all connected to a murdered man.

ADULT NONFICTION

Days of Love and Rage: A Story of Ordinary People Forging a Revolution, by Anand Gopal, describes the Syrian struggle to overthrow a brutal dictatorship in 2011.

David George Haskell examines flora in **How Flowers Made Our World: The Story of Nature’s Revolutionaries**.

In **The Infinity Machine: Demis Hassabis, DeepMind, and the Quest for Superintelligence**, Sebastian Mallaby zeroes in on the brains behind Google’s AI dominance.

Stay Alive: Berlin, 1939-1945 is Ian Buruma’s epic account of life in a besieged German city in World War II.

ADULT EBOOKS

Lindy West’s memoir **Adult Braces: Driving Myself Sane** harkens back to a road trip during a chaotic period in the author’s life.

The Complex by Karan Mahajan follows the drama, ambitions, and betrayals of a prominent family in Delhi, India.

Cosmic Music: The Life, Art, and Transcendence of Alice Coltrane is Andy Beta’s biography of the late composer and spiritual leader.

A Slovak youth survives a 1929 Pennsylvania coal mine disaster in **Mule Boy** by Andrew Krivak.

ADULT DVD/BLU-RAY

Blue Moon (2025), directed by Richard Linklater, is a day in the life of lyricist Lorenz Hart (Ethan Hawke), attending the Broadway opening of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Oklahoma*.



Those who compete in the SF Library’s Summer Stride reading program will win a tote bag designed by Bay Area artist Nidhi Chanani, who illustrated this image of Dolores Park.

LIBRARY EVENTS

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., and are drop-in unless otherwise noted. Be aware events are first come, first served. For information, visit sfpl.org or call the branch at 415-355-5707.

Toddler Storytimes are Mondays, June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 and July 6 & 13, 11:15-11:45 a.m. Tickets are available at the door, starting at 11 a.m.

Family Storytimes are Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18 & 25 and July 2, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tickets are available at 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

The 1991 film **My Own Private Idaho** screens Friday, June 12, from 2 to 4 p.m.

STEM Free Play for children with a caregiver is set for 10 to 11:45 a.m. on Saturdays, June 13 and July 11.

Joy North leads a watercolor workshop based on art by Alma Thomas, **“Repetition as Meditation,”** Saturday, June 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. Reservations required: 355-5707.

SF City Guides’ walking tour **“Noe Valley: Village Within a City”** explores historic homes in the neighborhood Sundays, June 14, July 12, and July 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. Registration required: 375-0468 (City Guides).

All ages can make **Fake Cake Photo Frames** with an artist from GoGo Craft on Saturday, June 14, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Reservations required: 355-5707.

High school students from Engage Tutoring can help with **Math Tutoring** and other homework on Tuesdays, June 16, 23 & 30, from 4 to 5 p.m. Reservations required: 355-5707.

Create your own **Buttons** to wear or pin to your bag during **Pride Month** at a workshop for ages 10 and up, Sunday, June 21, 2 to 3 p.m.

Lizard Lady Reptiles brings snakes and lizards to meet kids 5 and up (but those under 8 must bring an adult), on Monday, June 22, from 2 to 3 p.m.

A **Summer Book Club** discusses Philip Pullman’s “Dark Materials” trilogy on fourth Fridays: *The Golden Compass* (June 26), *The Subtle Knife* (July 24), and *The Amber Spyglass* (Aug. 28). 3-4 p.m.

Children and a parent or caregiver are invited to half-hour **Super Soccer Stars Demo Workshops** on Sunday, June 28. Kids ages 1 to 2 should sign up for 2:30 p.m.; ages 2 to 3, 3 p.m.; ages 3 to 5, 3:30 p.m. Reservations required: 355-5707.

Families enjoy **Pajama Storytime** Tuesday, June 30, from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

The June 30 session of **Family Board Game and LEGO Night** was postponed to Tuesday, July 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

A computer artist is sucked into a retro video game where he must rescue a dog, in director Albert Birney’s fantasy/horror film **OBEX** (2025).

Leonardo DiCaprio, Regina Hall, Sean Penn, and Teyana Taylor star in **One Battle After Another** (2025), a dark comedy written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, based on Thomas Pynchon’s 1990 novel *Vineland*.

Sentimental Value (2025) is a psychological drama set in Norway made by Joachim Trier and Eskil Vogt, starring Renate Reinsve and Stellan Skarsgård.

Directed by Michael Angelo Covino, **Splitsville** (2025) stars Dakota Johnson and Adria Arjóns in a “brilliantly unromantic” comedy about open marriage.

Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 415-355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	11-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood
https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/
Website: http://www.action-sf.com/
Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
Meetings: Third Tuesday (June 16), also on Zoom, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey, 6-7:30 p.m.

Al-Anon Noe Valley
Contact: 834-9940; office@al-anonsf.org
Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street).
Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez St. (enter through Clipper Street side door and go up the stairs)

Castro Merchants
Contacts: Terry Asten Bennett, President;
Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114
Email: info@CastroMerchants.com

Comerford Greenway
Contact: Howard Fallon
Email: ComerfordGreenway@gmail.com
Website: https://greeningprojects.org/com-erford-greenway/
Quarterly workdays in Comerford Alley.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774
Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, CA 94131
Website: www.dhcasf.org. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Email: info@doloresheights.org
Website: www.doloresheights.org
Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045;
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Lili Wu, 647-0235. Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131. Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Assn.
Contact: Board@evna.org
Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114
Meetings: See website Events. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110
The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Billy Goat Hill
Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122
Website: www.billygoathill.net

Friends of Dolores Park Playground
Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
Website: friendsofdolorespark.org

Friends of Christopher Park
Contact: Brynna McNulty, 818-744-4230
Email: friendsofchristopherpark@gmail.com
Website: FriendsOfChristopherPark.org

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576
Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131
Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday mornings and third Saturday of the month.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
Contact: Laura Norman
Email: noecourts@gmail.com
Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146
Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)
Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
Website: friendsofnoevalley.com
Meetings: Two or three annually.

Friends of Slow Sanchez
Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel
Email: info@SlowSanchez.com
Website: SlowSanchez.com

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center
Contact: Chris Faust
Email: info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com
Website: uppernoerecreationcenter.com
Meetings: Email or check website.

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUND OG)
Contact: David Emanuel
Email: info@fundogsf.org
Website: www.fundogsf.org

Glen Park Association
Contact: info@glenparkassociation.org
Website: glenparkassociation.org
Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

Juri Commoners
Contact: Dave Schweisguth, MI7-6290
Email: dave@schweisguth.org
Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Call Dave. "Tidy up when you can."

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president
Email: efromer3@gmail.com
Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

Noe Neighborhood Council
Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe
Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District
Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.
Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org.
Website: noevalleyassociation.org
Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Sam Maslin, President
E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com
Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org
Meetings: Monthly at Valley Tavern or Tacolicious, dates publicized on website.

Noe Valley Farmers Market
Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
Contact: Kristen McCaffery, President,
Kristen@novysf@gmail.com, 829-8383; or Kathryn Gianaras, Vice President,
Kathryn@novysf@gmail.com
Meetings: 9 a.m. Call to confirm location.
Website: https.noemerchants.com
www.No ValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network
An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
Email: minaken@gmail.com
noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Walks
Contact: Chris Nanda
Email: christopher.n.nanda@gmail.com
Website: NoeWalks.com
Meetings: Saturdays, 10 a.m. Starts 24th and Sanchez. Ends Noe and Duncan for photo.

Progress Noe Valley
Facebook: ProgressNoeValley
Email: progressnoe@gmail.com
Website: progressnoe.com
Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)
Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
Website: https://SF-fire.org/nert
Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

Upper Noe Merchants
Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com;
https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Chris Faust
Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
Website: www.uppernoeneighbors.com
Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesdays. Confirm by email or check website.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
editor@noevalleyvoice.com
All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

To Market, To Market

By Mazook

THE FARMER TAKES A WIFE: Congrats go out to Kou Herr and Uey Yang, who got married on May 16 at Herr Family Farm. The farm is one of earliest vendors at the Noe Valley Farmers Market. It arrived in 2005.

“We met 15 years ago,” says Herr about Uey, “and our first date was 11 years ago when we went to a San Francisco Giants game. It was love at first sight, and Uey moved in with me on the night of our wedding.”

Kou and Uey were both born in Thailand and say they will go back there for their honeymoon in December. “We’ll go there during our off-season at the farm,” says Kou. The Herr Family Farm is located in the town of Sanger, Calif., east-southeast of Fresno. That’s where Kou’s mom and dad, Daothao and Geherr, live.

You can wish them a lifetime of happiness any Saturday at the Noe Valley Town Square, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Incidentally, I just got word of the music lineup for the market in June. According to town square music director Gil Guillermo, the acoustic duo Sam Lenny and Tuki Walker will perform bluegrass, folk, and country—and the group Alie & Me will play eclectic originals and covers, both on June 13.

On June 20, the two music groups are Out-of-Town Couple and Proceed to the Route, and they specialize in Americana. Then on June 27, you can hear singer-songwriter Dave Kesler and solo musician Brendan.

And remember that the Noe Valley Night Market is in the square every last Tuesday of the month, so the next one will be on June 30. This June market will have the block of 24th Street in front of the town square closed as well, so it’ll be a big and fun market.

Speaking of markets, have you noticed that the Noe Valley Whole Foods Market has only a few small shopping carts these days. I have waited several minutes to get the next small cart (I hate the large ones). Why is that? Store manager Jack Douglas tells me that people have been showing up at all hours and walking off with the store’s shopping carts. He says Whole Foods has ordered a new supply of the \$500 carts, which he hopes will be delivered soon.

Douglas also informs me that the Noe Whole Foods has complained to the city about the abundance of people stopping pedestrians in front of the market to ask them to sign their petitions. In some cases, they earn money for each signature they collect, so they’re out in force at election time. Douglas says the petitioners are creating congestion for those entering and leaving the store’s parking lot and that city authorities are citing those who may be blocking the driveway.

The voice of AI notes: “Gathering signatures or petitions on a traditional public sidewalk in San Francisco does not require a city permit, as it is a protected First Amendment activity.... However, you cannot block pedestrian traffic, building entrances, or driveways.”

☎ ☎ ☎

ART HERE: Be sure to check out the art showing at Lola Gallery at 1250 Sanchez St. The show runs from now through July 31, and gallery hours are

Tuesday through Thursday, noon to 6 p.m., and Friday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The title of the show is “The Hope Brigade.” Participating artists are Leigh Barbier, Paul Brown, Neil Guaman, Marc Ellen Hamel, Jennifer Keith, Olivia Kuser, Robert Nielsen, Azian Nurudin, Ben Pax, Stefan Salinas, and Robert Tannen.

In other art news, an art framing store called Framebridge will soon open at 3824 24th St. (across from Shufat Market).

As reported by Matthew Bajko in the Voice last month, Framebridge is a business founded in 2014 by CEO Susan Tynan. Its website says it offers “affordable, high-quality, fast custom framing and one-on-one design services direct-to-consumer.”

The company has more than 40 locations across the U.S., including two in the Bay Area, in Berkeley and Palo Alto.

I am told by a Palo Alto worker who provides “in-service consultations” for Framebridge that customers are presented with different options for framing their image or artwork. Then, when the framing is done, the piece is delivered to the purchaser’s home.

Bajko told us that Framebridge, a formula retailer, was approved without opposition in April, and the new store could open in late September or early October.

Numerous calls to the company’s headquarters in New York have gone unanswered.

☎ ☎ ☎

WE’RE THE BEST: Of course, we already knew this. But the British *Our Culture Mag.* in its June issue, alerted the world that Noe Valley ranks among the best neighborhoods in San Francisco, in several different categories.

In its determination of the five “Safest Neighborhoods in San Francisco,” the online magazine ranked Noe Valley third—after Sea Cliff (1) and Presidio Heights (2). (West Portal and the Outer Sunset/Parkside were 4 and 5.)

Why Noe Valley? It’s “sunny, walkable, and filled with small shops [and] a strong choice for young families and professionals who want a neighborhood vibe.”

But in the category “Best Safe Neighborhoods for Families,” the mag gave Noe Valley its top spot and pointed to our “quiet residential streets, playgrounds, and reputable nearby schools.”

Noe Valley also made the cut for “Best Safe Neighborhoods for Young Professionals,” who, *Our Culture Mag* noted, typically require “safety, plus an easy commute and access to dining and nightlife.”

Noe Valley was third after Pacific Heights and Russian Hill, because, the magazine said, we “offer[ed] a calmer alternative to downtown-adjacent neighborhoods while remaining transit-friendly.” We’re Waymo friendly too.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE WISDOM OF YENNE: Emily Landes wrote a great story about our neighborhood (with photographs by Morgan Ellis) in the May 28 *San Francisco Standard*, titled, “Noe Valley Is a San Francisco Lesson in Making a Blue-Collar Neighborhood Upscale.”

In the article, Landes quotes many residents and shop owners in the neighborhood—including real estate agent Lamisse Droubi, Small Frys owner Carol Yenne, Trad Bone Broth makers Jonathan and David Kim, and BR Demko of Friends of Slow Sanchez—on why Noe Valley is special (see above) and how generation after generation has been attracted to its “village-like vibe.”

In talking history with Yenne, Landes lands upon the paradox that those of us who live here often wrestle with. “Yenne



Kou Herr and Uey Yang celebrated their marriage on May 16. The couple plan to spend their honeymoon in Thailand this coming December.

Photo by Renee Koury

is the first to admit that the community’s efforts to make the neighborhood safer, cleaner, and more desirable have unintentionally made it harder for each subsequent generation to afford a home there,” writes Landes. “Even into the mid-’90s, the median price in the neighborhood was less than \$500,000; today that sum isn’t likely to cover the amount a winning bidder pays over the asking price.”

☎ ☎ ☎

DUST BOWL MENSCH: Noe Valley filmmaker Steve Pressman has let us know that his latest film, *Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls: Another Side of Woody Guthrie*, premiered at the end of May in Toronto, Canada, and will begin showing up at other film festivals in the weeks and months ahead.

Pressman writes, “The film tells the little-known story of the significant Jewish influences that helped to shape and define Woody Guthrie’s life and music. In doing so, the film also casts a spotlight on Aliza Greenblatt, a prominent Yiddish poet and lyricist, who also happened to be Woody’s mother-in-law. Along with including lots of Woody’s wonderful music, the film also features interviews with Woody’s children Nora and Arlo, rarely seen Guthrie home movies, Yiddish singers Daniel Kahn and Eleanor Reissa, and even a few glimpses of Bob Dylan and Ramblin’ Jack Elliott!

“I’m honored that the film’s world premiere is taking place (as the Opening Night Film) at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls will then be shown in July at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, where the film is being featured as the festival’s Local Spotlight film. From there, the film will make its way to other festivals around the country (and beyond).” Sounds great. We’ll look for it.

☎ ☎ ☎

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF Haystack Pizza founder Alexander “George” Kouloulis, who passed away on March 27 at the age of 91. Memorial services were held on April 14. Kouloulis was born and raised on the island of Ikaria, Greece. But he spent most of his life in San Francisco.

I have many memories of Kouloulis over the years, starting back in 1972, when he opened Haystack. The large

wooden sculpture of him, which stands at the end of the bar, greeted me every time I went there for a pizza. The murals in the back dining room are beautiful and bring joy to all who have gone there for a party. I remember a huge party there given by Peter Gabel and feeling welcomed by everyone’s warm greeting.

I remember passing by Haystack’s front window in the morning (on my way to Martha’s for coffee) and seeing Noe Valley Pizza Restaurant owner Tony Vozaites sitting in front with Kouloulis having their morning coffees. Tony passed away four years ago and now has joined George in heaven, I’m sure.

I remember George standing outside Haystack almost every afternoon, smoking his pipe and enjoying every puff, watching all the passersby, or going over and hanging out in the front of the Noe Valley Town Square. And then there is the huge bull up on the roof of Haystack, welcoming all the walkers on 24th Street. I have been told that George named the bull “Trumpster” about nine years ago.

I talked to Haystack’s chef, Tommy Pham, who has worked there for the past 16 years. “He [George] was a very generous man with a good heart for everyone,” said Pham. “I was given lots of envelopes which he told me to give to the many charitable groups in the city, and he was very generous to me giving me extra money. He also gave poor customers free dinners. He was very active in the Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America. You will see many plaques and awards on the walls by various San Francisco organizations.”

George’s daughter Tina Kouloulis manages Haystack these days with help from his son, Jason Mills. Tina says they have been adding to the menu and offering pizza slices for \$5 for a cheese and \$6 for a slice with a topping (e.g., pepperoni).

Tina says the restaurant is also expanding its lunch menu with large salads, and they will have sandwiches by the end of June. Stop by and say hi.

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT’S ALL, YOU ALL. See you in July. By then I hope to have the complete results of the June primary election. You might find them surprising. Ciao. ■



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